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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/376.651 08/18/99 AOYAMA

N JA9-98-073

024033 MM92/0228
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EXAMINER

CONE, D	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2854
DATE MAILED:

16
02/28/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trad marks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/376,651

Applicant(s)
Aoyama

Examiner
Darius Cone

Group Art Unit
2854



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 7, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 2-31 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 2-31 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2854

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De Falco et al (US patent #5,088,848) in view of Park (US patent # 5, 846, 008).

With respect to claims 2, 10 and 18 De Falco et al. teach a roller (59) contacting a record medium, a shaft portion (Fig. 3) supported in a bracket (60) which allows roller (59) to freely rotate. De Falco et al. also teach a feed assistance roller (55, Fig. 3) rotatable, able to apply pressure on a record medium. While De Falco et al. do not teach the roller (59) being non vertically aligned, Park teaches feeding rollers (11) spaced apart on a cylindrically shaped shaft (18) non vertically aligned with any other align roller in an attempt to feed a sheet, aligning the front edge portion in the vicinity of the print zone. Park also teaches that rollers (11) are not rotatable on the shaft which moves as one unit to push away a sheet in contact with the lowest surface by using frictional force (see col. 1, lines 45-50). It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art to use an idler roller (59), supported in a bracket to increase rotation

Art Unit: 2854

created by the feeding of the sheet along the printing path for feeding record mediums of different thicknesses or cut sheets thereby securing tight contact between the roller and the record medium to ensure proper alignment for a high quality of printing.

With respect to claims 3, 12, 21, 26, 28 & 31, De Falco teaches align roller (47 or Fig. 1) positioned vertically and align roller (59) positioned laterally (see De Falco, Figs 1 & 3).

With respect to claims 4, 13 & 22, see feed rollers (55, 46) (De Falco, Fig. 1,).

With respect to claims 5 & 14, (see align roller (47) of De Falco, Fig. 1).

With respect to claims 6 & 15, De Falco teaches brackets (60) for align roller (59) and align roller (47) disposed in grooves of the brackets (see De Falco, Fig.3).

With respect to claims 7 & 16, (see De Falco, col. 2, lines 41-49).

With respect to claims 8 & 17, (see De Falco, col. 2, lines 49-65, Fig. 3).

With respect to claims 9, 11 & 24, It would have been obvious choice to select any medium necessary for feeding or printing.

With respect to claims 19 & 23, (see Park, Fig. 3).

With respect to claim 20, (see De Falco et al., col. 2, lines 33-39).

With respect to claims 25, 27, 29 & 30 (see Parks, col.3, lines 20-34).

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The applicant's attention is invited to the patent Sago (US patent # 5,667,321) and Ahn (US patent # 5,897,259).

Application/Control Number: 09/376,651

Art Unit: 2854

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Darius Cone whose telephone number is (703) 308-1061. The examiner can normally be reached daily between the hours of 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hilten, can be reached on (703) 308-0719. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-5841.

Any inquire of a general nature or relating to the status of the application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DNC

February 26, 2001



JOHN S. HILTEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800